

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

POST OFFICE BOX 327

HURLOCK, MARYLAND 21643

410-943-4181

FAX 410-943-8556

E-MAIL: townofhurlock@townofhurlock.org

JOYCE A. SPRATT
MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
CLERK / TREASURER
HUGH C. VINSON
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHRISTOPHER J. ADAMS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
MICHAEL E. HENRY
MICHAEL D. NORDSTROM

MINUTES OPEN SESSION MEETING November 12, 2013 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the meeting of November 12, 2013, to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Reverend Paul Bovankovich said the opening prayer. The roll call was then taken. Those in attendance were: Councilmembers Durham, Cephas, Adams, Henry, Mayor Spratt, Attorney Robert Merriken, and Clerk Avery. Councilman Nordstrom was absent.

The Agenda was approved with a Motion made by Councilman Durham. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With no discussion, the Motion passed with a vote of 4-0

The Minutes of the Open Session Meeting held on October 28, 2013 were approved. Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve the minutes, but had a question regarding pg. 5 paragraph 2 in which a statement was made by Kay McElvey saying 20-30 years ago the Town offered help if she could come up with \$2,000.00. This statement was verified on the recorder as accurate. Councilman Adams said that on pg. 5, the first line states, "Mr. Charles **Dockins**", it should read "**Mr. Charles Dotson**". Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. The Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0 with the name change and having the statement by Ms. McElvey verified.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Spratt announced that Unity Washington United Methodist Church at the corner of Oak and Main Streets would hold a Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday November 28, 2013. They request you make reservations. The Mayor also announced on the day of the Christmas Parade, December 14th, the Mid-Shore Recyclers will hold a decorated Christmas tree contest at the Hurlock Community Center immediately following the parade. You can begin your set-up December 11-14. There will be 3 prizes awarded, \$500.00, \$250.00, and \$150.00. The trees will be auctioned off after the contest and the proceeds will be donated to the Hurlock Police Department to

help the local less fortunate citizens have a brighter Christmas. Santa Claus and Holiday the Clown will be at the Train Station after the parade.

On December 2nd, the swearing in of the new Councilmembers will be held at 8:00 p.m. There will be a meet and greet after the ceremony.

The Mayor also asked for prayers for Mrs. Virginia Wands. She fell outside of her home today and is in Shock Trauma.

Clerk Avery and Mayor Spratt met previously with the owners of Snip & Tuck and announced they are in attendance to present information to the citizens. The Mayor introduced Dr. Sandoval. Dr. Sandoval stated she was there to talk about how the Town along with Snip and Tuck can partner together to help with the feral cat problem in the area through spay and neutering. Their business is located in Secretary and they are non-profit. They help communities deal with over population of feral cats as well as other animals. They will also help with your house pets if they are in need of spaying or neutering. Since their opening they have done 4,000 cats and 1,500 this year alone. The cost for the male cats is \$45.00 and \$55.00 for females. They provide education to help clear up the misinformation defining feral as wild; that is different than a stray cat. A feral cat is one that has never had human contact and cannot be brought into a household and kept as a pet. A stray cat could be one that ran away or the owners could not keep it any longer, but had previous human contact and could, in time, be re-socialized. Dr. Sandoval explained that the process includes locating colonies of cats, then using traps to catch and transport to their facility where they perform a spay or neuter. The cats are then given rabies vaccinations that are good for a year. After this is completed, they are returned to the location they were found. A national study shows that if you remove cats from a location, others will return. Ignoring the situation will not make the cats go away. Dr. Sandoval presented pictures of a cat with a litter of 2, which they then produce offspring, then on and on. It is a community effort with volunteers. Financing is an issue, but there are grants available. Snip and Tuck performed s/n on 100 cats from the Lakes and Straits area.

Jack Lewis stated he has a problem with the cats being taken back to the same location where they are causing damage and asked what their life expectancy is. The answer was, the life expectancy for a cat is approximately 15 years. Mrs. Bovankovich stated feral cats are dangerous and there are people in town that are not responsible for their pets. Mr. Monroe Quales was in agreement with Mrs. Bovankovich. Dr. Sandoval said that a feral cat would not approach a human; they will run the other way. Councilman Durham stated this business is presenting an option other than euthanizing and asked what the cost would be if the Town agreed to do it. The answer was the same; \$45 for a male, \$55 for a female, and again there is grant money available and donations. If you are interested in organizing a clinic, organization is the key. Find out where the cats are, and who is caring for them, involve those people try to get them involved in having an s/n clinic. There is a clinic being held this Saturday, November 16th. You would need to call for an appointment at 410-943-4050. Councilman Durham expressed his appreciation for the

information. Mayor Spratt thanked Snip and Tuck for attending the meeting and sharing the information.

County Councilman Rick Price Report – Councilman Price thanked Mayor Spratt for attending the last county council meeting. The first part of the meeting, with local legislators in which the 2013 session was discussed and some goals were set to be addressed in the 2014 session. These included changing the structure for Chesapeake College to require a super majority vote for any Chesapeake College capital project requiring long term debt service, also to allow support counties of the college the opportunity to submit nominations for the Board of Trustees for their respectful jurisdictions. An amendment for the Alcoholic Beverages Legislation to change hours for sale beer and light wine of Class B license holders was discussed. Also discussed was addressing the reclassifying of reed grass as a noxious plant on county roads, and there was discussion on local budget impacts and the cost of shifting teacher's pensions.

The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources was present to hear from watermen regarding the increase in license fees. Some of these licenses were over \$1,000.00 per season whereas before they were paying \$200 - \$300. Also discussed was the limit on the catch of oysters.

There was discussion of local highway user funds/ State Highway Administration annual report, the cutting of tall grass at intersections, Rt. 331 at Reid's Grove, Cabin Creek Road at Rt. 16, the blinker light in Hurlock and what could be done to make that intersection better. There are also issues with Rt. 331 and Rt. 14 in Rhodesdale. There were complaints regarding the Back Landing bridge still not replaced. Other discussion was pertaining to areas in the North Dorchester area and Linkwood.

Police Department Report - Police Chief Les Hutton reported that Halloween went fantastic. There were no reported incidents. Chief Hutton said he was impressed to see the amount of parents involved with their children in trick or treating. The department had 109 calls for the month of October with 36 of those calls from the county. A citizen asked for a breakdown of crime and Councilman Durham answered the information is on a police website.

Fire Department Report - Jerry Rhue reported the fire department is looking into purchasing a new ladder truck. It could cost from \$700,000.00 to \$1.5 million. Their equipment has to be up to standards as it affects their insurance rates.

Clerk Avery reported on the old Train Station and rail crossings. The State is going to temporarily fence it in, they are aware that it needs to eventually be demolished.

Old Business - Mr. Merriken read parts from the proposed Ordinance 2013-2 on the tethering of dogs. The Ordinance was introduced on October 28, 2013 and now needs to be voted on. Councilman Durham made a Motion to accept Ordinance 2013-2 as written. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. With no discussion, the Motion was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0 and no one opposed.

Councilman Durham asked about questions at the last meeting regarding Town water, and Eric Barnhart was supposed to be in attendance. Mayor Spratt said he had a prior engagement that he could not change. He could possibly attend the next council meeting.

Councilman Durham spoke about the cat situation. He would like to suggest if the Town could come up with \$1,000.00, then possibly, for every two cats perhaps town citizens could make donations to come up with enough money to have 35 cats s/n and vaccinated. Mayor Spratt asked how many cats would @2,000.00 take care of. Mr. Merriken answered 50 cats. Councilman Adams said he was in favor of moving ahead with this idea and to do it soon, as it will only get worse. Councilman Durham made a Motion that the Town allocate \$2,000.00 to help with the spay/neuter of 50 cats along with their rabies vaccination. Councilman Cephas asked if money could be found in the budget for this. Clerk Avery stated they would have to do a budget amendment. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried, with no further discussion and no one opposed.

Councilman Durham congratulated Jerry Rhue on winning his council seat. He also asked what percentage of the Hurlock Fire Department Fund Drive goes directly to the department. Mr. Rhue answered that 100% goes to the Hurlock Fire Company; volunteers do it all.

Council Comments - Councilman Cephas congratulated Mayor Spratt on her re-election as well as those that won council seats. He also wished Councilmen Adams and Henry the best and hoped they would stay involved with the community. Councilman Cephas thanked the citizens for getting out to vote. He spoke about the veterans program at the North Dorchester Middle School and how much he enjoyed it. He suggested perhaps the Town should send a letter thanking them for such a wonderful tribute to our veterans. He spoke also of how some community families that have problems with communication. There are some issues on the school buses within the Prospect Heights area. The citizens in Prospect Heights are trying to work on coming up with solutions. That area is a close-knit community and whereas years ago it was a bad area, that is currently not the case. Councilman Cephas would like to have a meeting with the Chief of Police, Les Hutton along with the citizens of Prospect Heights. The previous meeting held there was such a success, it is hoped a second one would be of help.

Councilman Adams congratulated all the winners of the election and encouraged everyone to support who they voted for and support the council and the Town. He thanked everyone for allowing him to serve them for the past 4 years.

Councilman Henry congratulated all the winners of the election. He stated that with the election over, he has hopes that the council will be able to work together to accomplish what needs to be done.

Public Comments – Earl Murphy announced that Halloween was a fantastic night with “Marshmallows at the Murphy’s”. They gave away 600 hot dogs at his home and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Monroe Quailes spoke about the betterment of the Town. He said when he first moved to the Town of Hurlock, it was drug infested. Some citizens formed a group and went out to rid the neighborhood of the drugs. He stated these citizens expect a lot from the Mayor & Council and asked that the Council keep in mind they are serving for the betterment of the Town.

Mayor Spratt announced the next meeting would be held on Monday November 25th and would be the last meeting with the current Council. On December 2nd at 8:00 p.m. the new Council will be sworn into office. On December 9th a meeting will be held with the new Council and hopefully the Audit Report will be ready to be presented.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. with a vote of 4-0.

Respectively submitted,

Approved: Mayor Spratt:

John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Councilmembers:

MOTIONS AND VOTES BY COUNCIL MEMBERS OPEN SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Motion to approve the Agenda was made by Councilman Durham. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion and it passed with a vote of 4-0, with no one opposed.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2013. Councilman Cephas seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion to approve the minutes was passed and carried with the 2 changes mentioned.

Councilman Durham made a Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-2. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Cephas and without any discussion; the Motion to approve was passed and carried with a vote of 4-0.

Councilman Durham made a Motion that the Town allocate \$2,000.00 to help with the spay/neuter of 50 cats along with the rabies vaccination. Councilman Henry seconded the Motion. With a vote of 4-0, the Motion was passed and carried, with no discussion and no one opposed.

Motion and second (unable to identify) were made to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.